



The Texas State Cemetery is located approximately one mile east of the State Capitol, between 7th and 11th Streets, and serves as the final resting place for notable citizens of Texas. Following Edward Burleson’s funeral on December 28, 1851, the Cemetery became the burial place for soldiers and founders of the Republic and State of Texas, elected state officials, jurists and other prominent men and women.

The Cemetery’s historical significance is defined by the many early Texas founders buried here, such as Stephen F. Austin, Robert Potter and Edwin Waller – Austin’s first mayor. In addition to the early settlers, the Cemetery’s importance has grown with the burials of 13 governors, like James Pinckney Henderson - the first Governor of Texas - Governors “Ma” and “Pa” Ferguson and John Connally.

Culturally, the Cemetery is unique because it represents every aspect of Texas history from European Colonization to modern day Texas politics. Historical and cultural icons are recognized and honored at the Cemetery. In addition to the prominent Texans buried here, many are represented by cenotaphs (a memorial marker). Individuals with cenotaphs include Susanna Dickinson, Alamo survivor; James Michener, Pulitzer Prize winner; Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys; and United States Senator John Tower.



Flag – A 150 ft. flagpole marks the entrance to the cemetery and can be seen from the State Capitol.



Pond – The Pond runs through the center of the grounds and is lined with stones from Salado, Texas.



Medal of Honor Section – This section is dedicated to Texas Medal of Honor recipients.

BURIAL ELIGIBILITY

Persons eligible for burial at the Texas State Cemetery are:

- (1) a former member of the legislature or a member who dies in office;
- (2) a former elective state official or an elective state official who dies in office;
- (3) a former state official or a state official who dies in office who has been appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate and who served at least 10 years in the office to which appointed;
- (4) a person specified by a governor’s proclamation;
- (5) a person specified by a concurrent resolution adopted by the legislature; and
- (6) a person specified by order of the committee, who has made significant contributions to Texas history and culture in the following fields: air and space, agriculture, art and design, business and labor, city building, education, industry, justice, military affairs, law enforcement, oil and gas, performing arts, philanthropy, ranching, religion, science and medicine, sports, and writing.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Cemetery is located at 909 Navasota Street, Austin 78702. Admission to the Cemetery is free.

Hours of Operation

Visitor Center and Gallery
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
Cemetery Grounds
8 a.m to 5 p.m., Everyday

Phone Numbers

Cemetery Main Line
(512) 463-0605
Tour Reservations
(512) 463-6600
Harry Bradley, Superintendent
(512) 463-6023
(512) 415-4901

Website

www.cemetery.state.tx.us

Texas State Cemetery Committee

Scott Sayers, Chairman

Jim Bayless, Member

History

General Edward Burleson’s death in 1851 came as a surprise to most Texans. No formal funeral arrangements had been made, so the Texas Legislature convened to plan a state funeral for a devoted Texas patriot and fellow colleague. Services were arranged and land was donated for his burial by Senator Andrew Jackson Hamilton. The Legislature went a step further and established Jackson’s land as the “state burying ground” for other notable Texans, thus creating the Texas State Cemetery.

For many years there were few burials, however, during the Civil War several prominent Confederate generals and public officials were buried at the Cemetery. By the the latter part of the 19th century, the State took over the Texas Confederate Home in Austin, and later created a similar home for women. As the residents began passing away, there became a need for a burial space that could accommodate them. As a result, the Cemetery was chosen so that the veterans could be memorialized with many of their former generals.

By the early 1900s there were many ambitious projects on the horizon at the Cemetery. The first was the construction of Elisabet Ney’s monument for Albert Sidney Johnston’s grave, which was completed in 1904. The second was the reinterment of Stephen F. Austin. In 1910, sixty years after the Legislature’s first attempt to have him moved, Austin was buried at the Cemetery and sculptor Pompeo Coppini was commissioned to raise a monument in his honor.

The 1920s saw a renewed interest in the Cemetery as Texas prepared for its approaching centennial. Louis Kemp, a noted businessman and historian, led an effort to locate desecrated burial locations of prominent Texas heroes and have their remains brought to the Cemetery for proper burial. The project began in 1929 with the removal of Governors James Pinckney Henderson and Peter Hansbrough Bell and continued until more than 70 men and women were moved in 1939. As a special thanks to Kemp and his efforts the State Highway Department paved the Cemetery’s main drive and declared it State Highway 165 in 1939 and named it in his honor.

In 1994, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock organized a full-scale renovation and restoration that included the construction of a visitor’s center, recirculating pond, columbarium wall, and memorial plaza. In addition to the construction efforts, Confederate headstones were cleaned and replaced if damaged. In March 1997, a rededication ceremony was held with Governor George W. Bush, Lt. Gov. Bullock, Speaker of the House Pete Laney, and many other distinguished guests. During his remarks, Governor Bullock revealed his reason for restoring the Cemetery: “Kids can come out here and in one day, learn more about Texas history than a whole semester in class.” He also appointed his friend, Harry Bradley, as Superintendent of the Cemetery.

The architecture of the Cemetery was designed to reflect various facets of Texas. The Visitor Center, made of limestone from Sisterdale, Texas, is modeled after the Alamo’s long barracks and the granary at Mission San Jose. The Columbarium Wall was built from the same pink granite as the Capitol’s base.

In 1997, the Legislature established a three-member committee appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives to oversee the Cemetery.



Stephen F. Austin
known as the
“Father of Texas.”



Ed Burleson soldier
and statesman, was the
first person buried at the
Cemetery in 1851



Bob Bullock Lt. Governor,
led the effort to renovate the
Cemetery in 1994

Self-Guided Walking and Audio Tour

Welcome to the Texas State Cemetery self-guided walking tour and audio tour. The audio tour can be obtained at the Visitor Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. You will be asked to leave a driver's license before using the audio wand. The self-guided walking and audio tour will take you on a walk through Texas History. The audio device allows the visitor to tour the grounds at their leisure. The tour follows a numbered pattern to correspond with the audio tour technology. Each monument or point of interest is given a number. The audio device will let the visitor type in a number from the corresponding list below and hear the monument or person's description. Press 69 for wand instructions. Press 55 to listen to an introduction to the Cemetery. If you have any questions or queries, please stop by the Visitor Center for assistance. Please have a safe and enjoyable visit at the Texas State Cemetery.

1. Visitor Center
2. George Christian Reception Room
3. Highway 165 (Audio Tour 1)
4. Columbarium Wall (Audio Tour 2)
5. French Sailor (Audio Tour 3)
6. September 11th Memorial Section (Audio Tour 5)
7. Veterans Memorial Section (Audio Tour 4)
8. Medal of Honor Monument (Audio Tour 6)
9. Vietnam Memorial (Audio Tour 7)
10. Gold Star Mothers Monument (Audio Tour 8)
11. Praha Mothers Monument (Audio Tour 9)
12. Purple Heart Monument (Audio Tour 10)
13. World War II Monument (Audio Tour 11)
14. Confederate Field (Audio Tour 12)
15. Albert Sidney Johnston (Audio Tour 13)
16. John A. Wharton, Confederate General
17. Joanna Troutman (Audio Tour 14)
18. Fred Gipson (Audio Tour 15)
19. Walter Prescott Webb (Audio Tour 16)
20. Ralph Yarborough, U.S. Senator
21. Jim Mattox, Attorney General
22. James Frank Dobie (Audio Tour 17)
23. James Michener, Writer (Cenotaph)
24. Francis R. Lubbock, Governor
25. James and Miriam Ferguson (Audio Tour 18)
26. A.W. Terrell, Confederate General
27. John Ireland, Governor
28. William P. Hardeman, Confederate General
29. William A. A. "Bigfoot" Wallace (Audio Tour 19)
30. Stephen F. Austin (Audio Tour 20)
31. August Buchel, Confederate General
32. Xavier B. Debray, Confederate General
33. Dan Moody (Audio Tour 21)
34. Allan Shivers (Audio Tour 22)
35. Joel Robison and James Sylvester (Audio Tour 23)
36. William Wayne Justice, Federal Judge (Cenotaph)
37. Susanna Dickinson (Audio Tour 24)
38. Josiah Wilbarger (Audio Tour 25)
39. Robert Rankin, American Revolutionary War Veteran
40. Stephen Williams, American Revolutionary War Veteran
41. Bob Bullock (Audio Tour 27)
42. Edward Burleson (Audio Tour 26)
43. Barbara Jordan (Audio Tour 28)
44. Thomas William "Peg Leg" Ward (Audio Tour 30)
45. Edmund J. Davis (Audio Tour 29)
46. John Tower, U.S. Senator (Cenotaph)
47. James Pinckney Henderson, 1st Texas Governor
48. Peter H. Bell, Governor
49. Preston Smith, Governor
50. Jake Pickle, U.S. Congress
51. Robert "Three Legged Willie" Williamson (Audio Tour 31)
52. John B. Connally (Audio Tour 32)
53. Tom Landry (Audio Tour 33)
54. Ann Richards (Audio Tour 34)
55. Willie Wells (Audio Tour 35)
56. Darrell K. Royal

